REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1, 14, 27, and 29, and dependent claims 5, 7–10, 13, 15, 18, and 20–26. Applicants hereby cancel dependent claims 4 and 17. The amendments to independent claim 1 are supported by the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0031] and [0032], by the drawings, such as FIG. 2, and by originally-filed dependent claim 4. The amendments to independent claim 14 are supported by the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0031], [0032], and [0041], by the drawings, such as FIGS. 2–4, and by originally-filed dependent claim 17. The amendments to independent claims 27 and 29, and to dependent claims 5, 7–10, 13, 15, 18, and 20–26, address minor wording issues and any required support therefor can be found in the specification, in the drawings, and in the claims as originally-filed. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is entered by the present amendments.

Applicants believe that no fees are due in order for this Preliminary Amendment to be entered. In the event, however, that any such fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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